

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 AID-05  
/052 W

-----014500 081901Z /64

R 080839Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL SHIRAZ  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 02  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
USINT BAGHDAD  
USDOC WASHDC  
USDA FAS WASHDC

UNCLAS SHIRAZ 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EWWT ELTN IR  
SUBJ: PORT SITUATION IN KHORRAMSHAHR, BANDAR SHAHPUR, BUDHEHR  
AND BANDAR ABBAS

1. A SURVEY OF MAJOR PERSIAN GULF PORTS OVER THE LAST SIX  
WEEKS REVEALED THAT THE SEVERE CONGESTION WHICH  
CHARACTERIZED THEM AS RECENTLY AS 18 MONTHS AGO HAS ALL BUT  
DISAPPEARED. AT THE MOMENT, ARRIVALS CAN EXPECT TO BE BROUGHT  
TO BERTH ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AT ALL FOUR PORTS.

2. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT:

A. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS HAS INCREASED LESS RAPIDLY

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THAN EARLIER ANTICIPATED. TWELVE MONTHS AGO THEY WERE EX-  
PECTED TO GROW BY APPROXIMATELY 2,000,000 TONS DURING THE  
CURRENT IRANIAN YEAR. AS OF LATE JANUARY, WITH JUST TWO  
MONTHS REMAINING IN THE YEAR, THE INCREASE WAS STILL WELL  
BELOW 1,000,000 TONS.

B. FACILITIES AT KHORRAMSHAHR AND BANDAR SHAHPUR HAVE

BEEN EXPANDED. THE FORMER HAS FOUR ADDITIONAL BERTHS AT ITS DISPOSAL AND THE LATTER SIX. MOREOVER, BOTH PORTS HAVE MADE GREATER USE OF CONTAINERS OVER THE LAST YEAR, THEREBY REDUCING THE TIME NEEDED TO OFFLOAD AND DISPATCH CARGO THUS SHIPPED.

C. PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED. THE PORTS AND SHIPPING ORGANIZATION--WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PORT OPERATIONS--AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE WORKING MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER THAN WAS FORMERLY THE CASE, AND SOME MANAGERS HAVE DEVELOPED INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR DEALING WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS (E.G., AT BUSHEHR, WHERE SPACE IS A PROBLEM, CONSIGNEES MUST COMPLETE CUSTOMS FORMALITIES BEFORE CARGO IS OFFLOADED).

3. THE CHAOTIC CONDITIONS WHICH ONCE PREVAILED WITHIN THE PORTS, TOO, HAVE BEEN LARGELY OVERCOME. AT KHORRAMSHAHR, WHICH WAS CLOGGED WITH 1,200,000 TONS OF CARGO A YEAR AGO, HAS REDUCED THAT TO ABOUT 300,000 TONS.

4. THE INLAND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, HOWEVER, REMAINS A MAJOR BOTTLENECK. ROADS, PARTICULARLY THOSE LEADING FROM KHORRAMSHAHR AND BANDAR SHAHPUR, ARE BEING TAXED TO THE LIMIT, AND IN MANY PLACES ARE DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. PLANS TO IMPROVE RAIL CAPACITY ARE STILL ON THE DRAWING BOARDS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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